



## Guide to Researching Municipal and County Laws

The following is a brief guide to help you research your local city (municipal) or county laws. This is not meant to be used for legal purposes but is designed to be a tool for you to understand what laws are already available. Remember that as you learn about the laws in your given jurisdiction to use this information humbly as you speak to law enforcement. Do not attend meetings with law enforcement to educate them about the laws, but in humility, ask them how you might be a resource and use your knowledge to suggest possible additions or amendments to the laws.

Each city has a Municipal Code and each county has a County Code of regulations. These laws are enforced in addition to the laws in your state and in the U.S. Municipal and County Codes may be particularly useful on a local level because it is generally easier to pass revisions, additions or amendments and may be tailored to the particular needs of your city or county.

The following are instructions for locating any provisions related to the purchase of sexual services.

1. Locate your city or county code.
  - a. The easiest way to do this is by doing a web search. Type in the name of your city/county and code – i.e. Sacramento City Code or King County Code.
  - b. The other option is to find your city or county website. Search for city, municipal or county code.
2. Most codes are organized on a searchable platform. Very small cities occasionally only provide a PDF document.
  - a. If you only have a word or pdf document, you can search through the document to find any provisions related to prostitution.
  - b. If you have a searchable platform, type in “prostitution” into the search bar.
    - i. This should yield any provision related to prostitution. Look for any provisions titled “patronizing prostitution,” “soliciting prostitution,” “loitering for prostitution,” “purchasing prostitution,” or “prostitution.”
    - ii. Read through these provisions and look for any of the provisions discussed in “Laws and Legal Strategies Used to Combat Demand in the United States.”
3. If you do not have a searchable platform, you should at least have a Table of Contents. You can also use the Table of Contents to find the specific provisions related to prostitution.
  - a. Look for any sections including the words, “Public Peace,” “Morals,” “General Welfare,” “Health and Safety,” “Public Decency,” etc. Sometimes this will take some searching as all codes are organized differently.
  - b. Click into each section to look for any provisions related to the public peace, prostitution, adult services, escort services, etc.

- i. Read through these provisions and look for any of the provisions discussed in "Laws and Legal Strategies Used to Combat Demand in the United States."

Finally, if you can't find anything, it is a possibility that your code doesn't have any provisions that are directly related. Most codes include such provisions, but not every code does. If that is the case, talk to your law enforcement about it. Ask them if provisions would be helpful and if so, what kinds. Use your new knowledge to open dialogues and to make yourself a greater resource to your local law enforcement officers.